

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 659**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Kuehl)

February 19, 2003

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An act to amend Section 13159 and 114815 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to radioactive waste.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 659, as introduced, Jackson. State Fire Marshal: radioactive waste.

Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal, among other things, to develop a model plan or system for use by fire departments for the control of fires and the safety of firefighters where hazardous materials are involved, and to study the feasibility of establishing a depository of information on hazardous material characteristics.

This bill would require the State Fire Marshal to include, in that model plan and depository, high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, as defined. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal, by January 1, 2005, to submit a report to the Legislature identifying any equipment needed for responding to emergency situations involving high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 13159 of the Health and Safety Code is  
2 amended to read:

1 13159. The State Fire Marshal, with policy guidance and  
2 advice from the State Board of Fire Services, shall have the  
3 following responsibilities:

4 (a) To make fire service training and education programs,  
5 including training and education in the use of heavy rescue  
6 equipment, available on a voluntary basis to fire departments that  
7 rely extensively on volunteers.

8 (b) Cooperate with the State Board of Fire Services in the  
9 development of a minimum standards program for fire service  
10 personnel and fire service instructors.

11 (c) Assist and cooperate with State Board of Fire Services  
12 pursuant to Section ~~13142.4~~ 13159.8.

13 (d) Verify that minimum curriculum requirements, facilities,  
14 and faculty standards for schools, seminars, or workshops  
15 operated by or for the state for the specific purpose of training fire  
16 service personnel are being met.

17 (e) Make or encourage studies of any aspect of fire service  
18 training and education.

19 (f) Determine the need for, and recommend locations of,  
20 regional training sites.

21 (g) (1) Develop a model plan or system for use by fire  
22 departments for the control of fires and the safety of firefighters  
23 where hazardous materials, *including, but not limited to,*  
24 *high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel*, are involved.

25 (h) Study the feasibility of establishing within the office of the  
26 State Fire Marshal, a depository of information on hazardous  
27 material characteristics, *including, but not limited to, high-level*  
28 *radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel*, for use by local fire  
29 departments and other entities that respond to emergencies.

30 (i) (1) *On or before January 1, 2005, submit a report to the*  
31 *Legislature identifying any equipment needed for responding to*  
32 *emergency situations involving high-level radioactive waste or*  
33 *spent nuclear fuel.*

34 (2) *For purposes of this section, high-level radioactive waste*  
35 *or spent nuclear fuel, have the same meaning as defined in Section*  
36 *114815.*

37 SEC. 2. Section 114815 of the Health and Safety Code is  
38 amended to read:

39 114815. For the purposes of this article, the ~~term~~  
40 ~~“radioactive”~~ following definitions apply:

- 1     (a) “*High-level radioactive waste*” and “*spent nuclear fuel*”  
2     *have the same meaning as defined in Section 10101 of Title 42 of*  
3     *the United States Code.*  
4     (b) “*Radioactive materials*” ~~shall include~~ *includes* any  
5     material or combination of materials that spontaneously emits  
6     ionizing radiation.

